

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 ANKARA 001072

SIPDIS

NOFORN

DEPT. FOR P, EUR, EUR/SE, NEA AND NEA/NGA;  
NSC FOR AMB. KHALILZAD;  
OSD FOR USDP LUTI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/17/2013

TAGS: [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [PREF](#) [PHUM](#) [TU](#) [IZ](#) [UNSC](#)

SUBJECT: NORTHERN IRAQ: TURKS, KDP, PUK AND ITF HOLD  
"COORDINATION" MEETING IN SILOPI FEB. 17 - KURDS COMPLAIN  
ABOUT TURKISH INTERVENTION PLAN

Classified by DCM Robert Deutsch. Reasons 1.5 b and d.

-----  
Summary  
-----

1. (S/NF) TGS and Turkish MFA reps discussed in general terms with KDP, PUK and ITF reps Turkish plans and intentions to coordinate deployment in northern Iraq with the Iraqi Kurdish and Turcoman parties at a meeting in Silopi, on the Turkish-Iraqi border Feb. 17. The Iraqi Kurds told the Turks they did not see a need for the planned Turkish deployment. According to the Kurds, the Turkish side was not happy with the response from the KDP and the PUK to their presentation, although the sides agreed to a follow-up meeting that will get into technical details in Salahadeen Feb. 25 or 26. End Summary.

2. (S/NF) KDP Ankara rep Safeen Dizayee contacted Operation Northern Watch POLAD Feb. 17 to report on a just-concluded meeting in Silopi between KDP, PUK, and Iraqi Turkmen Front (ITF) reps and representatives of the Turkish General Staff to coordinate military plans in an eventual Iraq operation. PUK Ankara rep also provided a brief to ONW POLAD Feb. 18. Attending for the KDP were "Deputy PM" Sami Abdul Rahman, Politburo member Fadhil Merani, Dohuk region peshmerga commander Babakir Zebari and Dizayee. The PUK was represented by PUK leader Jalal Talabani and former "Deputy PM" and current PUK Irbil Office rep Adnan Mufti. ITF was represented by Chairman Sanan Aga (who arrived in a helicopter, to the chagrin of the KDP and PUK reps). (NOTE: Turkish press insistently claimed, despite our denials, that a US "general" also participated.) The TGS emphasized the need for logistical coordination to prepare for a humanitarian emergency. The 2/17 meeting only discussed generalities. The TGS offered a follow-up meeting 2/24 or 2/25 probably in Salahadeen to get into technical details.

3. (S/NF) According to Dizayee, the Kurdish side repeated the familiar points that they did not envision an exodus as in 1991, and if a displaced persons emergency did come about, the Kurds would actively seek Turkish assistance. But until such a time, the Iraqi Kurds did not see a need for Turkish military intervention, which, the Kurds asserted, would draw in other regional powers. The Turks responded that they also did not foresee a mass exodus, but based on their 1991 experience, they had to be prepared for the worst. The ITF used the meeting to complain about opposition conference issues and demanded inclusion in the conference preparatory committee. The KDP and the PUK said this meeting was the wrong forum for opposition conference discussions and declined to take up the issue.

4. (S/NF) The issue of the ITF security officer arrested by the KDP on terrorism charges was raised by the Turkish side. The KDP stressed that the case was about an individual, and was not part of a political vendetta against the ITF. The KDP told the Turks that they had evidence against the individual in question showing he was working for "someone else." Dizayee added that the Turkish liaison in Irbil has been to see the KDP leadership a few times and claims he has a copy of a US report on the matter. According to Dizayee, the Turks asserted that the US agreed with Turkey that this was a political act against the ITF.

5. (S/NF) Galali said he had spoken by phone with his TGS point of contact in Silopi, Itaz Pasha, who attended the meeting. Itaz Pasha told Galali the Turks were unhappy with

the results of the meeting and that this was the first time in recent exchanges Turkey has been unhappy with Jalal Talabani. Talabani apparently told the Turks that not only the Iranians, Syrians and Iraqi Arabs would oppose a Turkish intervention in northern Iraq, but so would the Iraqi Kurdish community. Itaz Pasha said to Galali, "Tell Mam Jalal that like Nelson Mandela, who worked hard for his country but today is reduced to travelling around and giving lectures, if Talabani adopts Barzani's attitude, he too will become like Mandela, with no role." When Itaz Pasha told Galali the Turks only wanted to stop refugees from coming into Turkey, Galali asked what the TGS would do if it got a call from Sanan Aga to come help the ITF in Irbil. Itaz Pasha replied that the Turks would go to Irbil, as they would if Talabani asked for help in Sulaymaniyah. Galali told him that was why the Iraqi Kurds opposed Turkish intervention and that a TGS move to aid the ITF in Irbil would lead to chaos, to which Itaz Pasha reportedly said "if a war starts, we will come into the whole region and no one can stop us."

16. (S/NF) Galali said to us, "the Turks want to make camps in Iraq and send large numbers of troops. They tell us they want to cooperate with us, but if they send in 50,000 troops, how can we stop them from doing what they want whether we "cooperate" or not? Why do they need tens of thousands of troops in our area if they are not even participating in the war against Saddam?" Galali urged the US to tell the Turks that the US did not need Turkish forces in northern Iraq. Noting that the Turks needed to come to the US to get KDP and PUK agreement to Turkish deployments in the north, he pleaded "please tell them no." He said that if the Turks decide not to support a US operation, the US should send quickly as much military force as possible to Harir and Sulaymaniyah by air to show the Turks that the US can operate in northern Iraq without Turkey's approval. Galali said, "Every Iraqi Kurd is unhappy about the prospect of a Turkish intervention, even the PUK. We know we cannot stop the Turks because the US is trying to cooperate with them. But Turkey must accept our rights as the residents of the region. The Turks now say they have the key to the door in northern Iraq and will decide who comes and goes. You must show them you can do things in northern Iraq without them. They do not understand your diplomatic language. They understand power."

PEARSON